



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of Maine*

*100 Middle Street
6th Floor, East Tower
Portland, ME 04101*

*(207) 780-3257
TTY (207) 780-3060
Fax (207) 780-3304
www.usdoj.gov/usao/me*

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Contact: Michael J. Conley
Assistant United States Attorney
Tel: (207) 780-3257

Crack Cocaine Trafficker Receives 14+Year Federal Sentence

Portland, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced today that **Austin Obialo**, 29, of Lithonia, Georgia, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court to over 14 years in prison. U.S. District Court Judge D. Brock Hornby imposed the sentence following Obialo's guilty plea entered in July 2007 – at which time Obialo pled guilty to conspiring to distribute and possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine.

Obialo was arrested in May 2007 following an investigation conducted by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. According to Court records, Obialo had made three trips from Georgia to Maine in order to sell crack cocaine in Portland. The day he was arrested, DEA agents conducted a search of Obialo's hotel room and recovered over 200 grams of crack cocaine and over \$10,000 in U.S. currency.

U.S. Attorney Silsby praised the investigative efforts of the DEA and the Scarborough Police Department. U.S. Attorney Silsby stated that this conviction is significant because it sends a strong message that those who choose to traffic drugs in Maine will be prosecuted and face stiff penalties.
